

graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER¹ The Papou Study Bible is a daily study provided by me to



help folks explore the depth and joy of the “conneXion” life of God. It’s my personal study, and is not intended as a doctrinal statement or statement of any church or denomination or congregation. It’s also my belief that “grace” works, and the servant of God should always want to go deeper. Multi-tasking as usual, I’m also calling this the “Papou Study Bible.” I’m writing it as if I were speaking to my girls who love me and any descendant they have that love their Papou too. And to anyone who wants to consider me a spiritual Dad or “Papou.” I want them to be able to study the Bible with Papou (grandpa in Greek) after I’m gone---and if they don’t, I’ll haunt them. The Scriptures say it’s noble to “search the Scriptures daily” to verify truth like the ancient Bereans did (Acts 17:11). My folks came from Berea. My incredible Dad (and your grandfather and great grandfather, guys), Vasil Charles Valekis taught me to do this like he did---every day until I die. He taught me and everyone I know to go to church no matter what and to put God first. While Mama (Maria Pagona Stratakis Valekis) never really did this, she made sure we listened to Daddy on this one. She would have hit us with a spatula or frying pan or worse if we didn’t.

This is a simple sharing my “daily search.” And I’d like to think it is a continuation of God’s life through my Dad through me. Both my “Dads” by the way. And a way to honor him, mama and our loving “Dad”---God. And for all of us to be together, in Spirit, even when we I join them in heaven. I like to use

the Blue Letter literal, very “visual,” Greek translation a lot to help “visualize” these truths the beautiful way Greek enables you to view.

And I like to share this with folks serving in an elder capacity, or any capacity, to grow them, challenge them, and stretch them. But especially share it with anyone I’ve ever brought to Christ and family members who truly love me. And when you study these, I’ll make sure to connect with you from heaven. *Ever an orthodox Greek, Jim Valekis*

Christ IN You Series

Colossians 1:27 (King James Version)

²⁷To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is *Christ in you*, the hope of glory

graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER

Jonah Introduction Part 2



So I learned this yesterday.

The NIV Study Bible says this: “In view of its many similarities with the narratives about Elijah and Elisha, however, it may come from the same prophetic circles that originally composed the accounts about those prophets, perhaps in the 8th century B.C. Just as some think a succession of prophets compiled the narratives of 1 and 2 Kings, it is thought here I guess that the prophet the drew up the account of Elijah and Elisha also drew up the account of Jonah. I couldn’t find any other support of that elsewhere, but when I typed in the question about Jonah and connection with the prophetic source that told about Elijah and Elisha, this came up (from Wikipedia of course)². So I’m going to study this further today.

¹ NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.

²² [Jonah - Wikipedia](#)

So let's continue this track.

The Book of Jonah (Yonah הַנּוֹי) is one of the twelve **minor prophets** included in the Tanakh.

I wonder what the Tanakh is. I'll look it up on the Web.

According to one tradition, Jonah was the boy brought back to life by **Elijah** the prophet in 1 Kings.^{[29][30]}

1 Kings 17

¹⁷ Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. ¹⁸ She said to Elijah, "What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?" ¹⁹ "Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. ²⁰ Then he cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?" ²¹ Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!" ²² The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived.

Another tradition holds that he was the son of the **woman of Shunem** brought back to life by **Elisha** in 2 Kings^{[31][32]} and that he is called the "son of **Amittai**" (*Truth*) due to his mother's recognition of Elisha's identity as a prophet in 2 Kings.^{[33][32]}

2 Kings 4

⁸ One day Elisha went to Shunem. And a well-to-do woman was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. ⁹ She said to her husband, "I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. ¹⁰ Let's make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us." ¹¹ One day when Elisha came, he went up to his room and lay down there. ¹² He said to his servant Gehazi, "Call the Shunammite." So he called her, and she stood before him. ¹³ Elisha said to him, "Tell her, 'You have gone to all this trouble for us. Now what can be done for you? Can we speak on your behalf to the king or the commander of

The **Hebrew Bible** or **Tanakh**^[a] (/tɑːˈnɑːx/^[1] **Hebrew**: תנ"ך, pronounced **[taˈnax]** or **[təˈnax]**), is the **canonical collection** of **Hebrew** scriptures, including the **Torah**. These texts are almost exclusively in **Biblical Hebrew**, with a few passages in **Biblical Aramaic** (in the books of **Daniel** and **Ezra**, the verse Jeremiah 10:11,^[2] and some single words).

The form of this text that is authoritative for **Rabbinic Judaism** is known as the **Masoretic Text** (MT) and consists of 24 books, and is sorted and numbered using *perek* and *pasuk* (**Chapters and verses of the Bible**). The contents of the Hebrew Bible is similar to the **Protestant Christian Old Testament**, in which the material is divided into 39 books and arranged in a different order. **Catholic Bibles**, **Eastern / Greek Orthodox Bibles** and **Ethiopian Orthodox Bibles** contain **additional materials**, derived from the **Septuagint** (texts translated into **Koine Greek**) and other sources. . . *Tanakh* is an acronym, made from the first **Hebrew letter** of each of the **Masoretic Text**'s three traditional divisions: **Torah** (literally 'Instruction' or 'Law'),^[7] **Nevi'im** (Prophets), and **Ketuvim** (Writings)—hence TaNaKh.

Hebrew Bible - Wikipedia

Jesus was familiar with this:

Luke 24:44

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the **Law** of Moses, the **Prophets** and the **Psalms**.(the Writings)"

the army?" She replied, "I have a home among my own people." ¹⁴ "What can be done for her?" Elisha asked.

Gehazi said, "She has no son, and her husband is old."

¹⁵ Then Elisha said, "Call her." So he called her, and she stood in the doorway. ¹⁶ "About this time next year," Elisha said, "you will hold a son in your arms."

"No, my lord!" she objected. "Please, man of God, don't mislead your servant!"

¹⁷ But the woman became pregnant, and the next year about that same time she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her.

Word Amittai:

H573 'Amittay am-it-tah'ee	from H571	Definition of veracious
veracious; Amittai, an Israelite.	stability; (figuratively) certainty, truth, trustworthiness.	<i>adj.</i> Honest; truthful. <i>adj.</i> Accurate; true. Truthful; habitually disposed to speak truth; observant of truth. from The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, 5th Edition.

The Book of Jonah is read every year, in its original Hebrew and in its entirety, on **Yom Kippur** – the Day of Atonement, as the **Haftarah** at the afternoon **mincha** prayer.^{[34][35]} According to **Rabbi Eliezer**, the fish that swallowed Jonah was created in the primordial era^[36] and the inside of its mouth was like a **synagogue**;^[36] the fish's eyes were like windows^[36] and a pearl inside its mouth provided further illumination.^[36]

Note: A little fanciful for my thinking.

According to the **Midrash**, while Jonah was inside the fish, it told him that its life was nearly over because soon the **Leviathan** would eat them both.^[36] Jonah promised the fish that he would save them.^[36] Following Jonah's directions, the fish swam up alongside the Leviathan^[36] and Jonah threatened to leash the Leviathan by its tongue and let the other fish eat it.^[36] The Leviathan heard Jonah's threats, saw that he was **circumcised**, and realized that he was protected by the **Lord**,^[36] so it fled in terror, leaving Jonah and the fish alive.^[36]

Note: So the Leviathan checked out Jonah's circumcision. Not the everyday thing you would expect a sea monster.

Let me check out some references to "Leviathan" in the Bible.

Job 41

“Can you pull in **Leviathan** with a fishhook or tie down its tongue with a rope? Can you put a cord through its nose or pierce its jaw with a hook? Will it keep begging you for mercy? Will it speak to you with gentle words? ...

Here are some other references to this mighty sea creature.

Isaiah 27:1	Psalm 104:25-26	Psalm 74:14	Job 41
<p>27 In that day, the LORD will punish with his sword— his fierce, great and powerful sword— Leviathan the gliding serpent, Leviathan the coiling serpent; he will slay the monster of the sea.</p> <p>Note: The word “leviathan” means coiling in Hebrew.</p>	<p>25 There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number— living things both large and small. 26 There the ships go to and fro, and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.</p>	<p>It was you who crushed the heads of Leviathan and gave it as food to the creatures of the desert.</p>	<p>12 “I will not fail to speak of Leviathan’s limbs, its strength and its graceful form. 13 Who can strip off its outer coat? Who can penetrate its double coat of armor? 14 Who dares open the doors of its mouth, ringed about with fearsome teeth? 15 Its back has rows of shields tightly sealed together; 16 each is so close to the next that no air can pass between. 22 Strength resides in its neck; dismay goes before it. 23 The folds of its flesh are tightly joined; they are firm and immovable. 24 Its chest is hard as rock, hard as a lower millstone. 25 When it rises up, the mighty are terrified; they retreat before its thrashing. 26 The sword that reaches it has no effect, nor does the spear or the dart or the javelin. 27 Iron it treats like straw and bronze like rotten wood. 28 Arrows do not make it flee; slingstones are like chaff to it. 29 A club seems to it but a piece of straw; it laughs at the rattling of the lance. 30 Its undersides are jagged potsherds, leaving a trail in the mud like a threshing sledge.</p>

For what it’s worth:

Some commentators believe Leviathan is a crocodile. Others believe it is a whale or a shark. Based on the biblical description, it seems more likely that Leviathan is a large sea reptile, possibly a species of **dinosaur** such as the plesiosaurus. Job's acquaintance with a dinosaur is not far-fetched at all, given that the **book of Job** is set in a very early time of history. [What was the leviathan? | GotQuestions.org](#)

The medieval Jewish scholar and rabbi **Abraham ibn Ezra** (1092 – 1167) argued against any literal interpretation of the Book of Jonah,^[37] stating that the "experiences of all the prophets except Moses were visions, not actualities."^[37] The later scholar **Isaac Abarbanel** (1437 – 1509), however, argued that Jonah could have easily survived in the belly of the fish for three days,^[38] because "after all, fetuses live nine months without access to fresh air."^[39]

There you have it. I did find this in a link on the web³ that explains how this connection is made.

Jonah appears again as an "anti-Elijah" when we consider that in 1 Kings 19 Elijah runs – not because he begrudges Yahweh's gracious characteristics, as does Jonah (cf. 4:2) – but because he is on Jezebel's hit list. At this point Yahweh's question to the defeated Elijah is, "What are you doing here?" (1 Kings 19:9).

Jonah 4:2	1 Kings 19 (selected verses)
<p>² He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.</p>	<p>Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."³ Elijah was afraid^[a] and ran for his life. . . ⁸ he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. ⁹ There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"</p>

This is very close to the captain's anxious cry in Jonah 1:6, "What are you doing in a deep sleep?" Jonah's "deep sleep" goes far beyond the exhausted sleep of Elijah when he is on the run from Jezebel (cf. 1 Kings 19:5 and the words "and he laid down and slept").

1 Kings 19:3-5
<p>⁴ while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he</p>

³ [Comparisons between Elijah and Jonah | Sign of Jonah \(wordpress.com\)](#)

said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." ⁵ Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." ⁶ He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

⁷ The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." ⁸ So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. ⁹ There he went into a cave and spent the night.

All of the special care with which Yahweh takes care of Elijah – a plant to shade him (1 Kings 19:4), angels to accompany him (1 Kings 19:5) and ravens to feed him (1 Kings 19:6) – find connections in Jonah, in even more miraculous forms. The irony is that Elijah's death wish comes after his success on Mt. Carmel in 1 Kings 18 which prompts the death threat of Jezebel (1 Kings 19:2). On the other hand Jonah's exhaustion comes after fleeing from the presence of Yahweh – the very presence Elijah is running toward (1 Kings 19:8)! These elements magnify the differences between these two prophets, and further diminish the stature of Jonah.

1 Kings 19:8 Young's Literal Translation	Jonah 1:3 Young's Literal Translation
<p>⁸ and he riseth, and eateth, and drinketh, and goeth in the power of that food forty days and forty nights, unto the mount of God -- Horeb.</p>	<p>³ And Jonah riseth to flee to Tarshish from the face of Jehovah, and goeth down [to] Joppa, and findeth a ship going [to] Tarshish, and he giveth its fare, and goeth down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the face of Jehovah.</p>

But a closer look at Elijah's death wish demonstrates further satire when it is compared with Jonah 4:3 where this pouting prophet asks Yahweh to take his life.

David Daube analyzes every instance of a wish for death or act of suicide/killing in the Old Testament. Of interest here that he designates the requests made by Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah and Jonah as the tradition of "the weary prophet." But Jeremiah's so-called request for death is in reality a wistful (and futile) yearning that he should never have been born (Jer. 20:14-18) and not a desire that his life come to an end. Consequently, it should be categorized with Job 3:2-7 as a curse of life rather than as a request for death. This leaves the requests of Moses, Elijah and Jonah in a group for consideration.

That's fascinating. The "weary" prophets wish they would die. Have you ever felt that way?

1 Kings 19

³ Elijah was afraid^[a] and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors."

Exodus 32:32

But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then **blot** me out of the book you have written."

Jonah 4:3

New International Version

³ Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

eremiah 15:10

Contemporary English Version

Jeremiah Complains

¹⁰ I wish I had never been born!

I'm always in trouble

with everyone in Judah.

I never lend or borrow money,

but everyone curses me

just the same.

Job 3:2-7

Contemporary English Version

² by saying to God:

³ Blot out the day of my birth

and the night when my parents

created a son.

⁴ Forget about that day,
 cover it with darkness,
⁵ and send thick, gloomy shadows
 to fill it with dread.
⁶ Erase that night from the calendar
 and conceal it with darkness.
⁷ Don't let children be created
or joyful shouts be heard
 ever again in that night.

Fascinating. I'll pick up with the NIV Study Bible Intro next time.